UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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9 August 1993
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ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Forty-eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

CONSIDERATION OF THE EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ESTABLISHED MODEL OF PARALLEL REPRESENTATION OF DIVIDED COUNTRIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 6 August 1993 from the representatives of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to request you, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to include a supplementary item in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly entitled "Consideration of the exceptional situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the international context, based on the principle of universality and in accordance with the established model of parallel representation of divided countries at the United Nations". Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we attach an explanatory memorandum (see annex I) and a draft resolution (see annex II) on the subject in question. 1/

(Signed) Lawrence SYLVESTER
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Belize

(Signed) José María BORBON
Ambassador
Alternate Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Costa Rica

(Signed) Julio Armando MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Guatemala

(Signed) Nelson VALENZUELA
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Honduras

(Signed) Ricardo CASTANEDA CORNEJO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
El Salvador

(Signed) Erich VILCHEZ ASHER
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Nicaragua

(Signed) Eduardo A. HEART
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Panama

Notes

1/ The document has been reproduced as received. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities.

Annex I

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. For a period of 22 years, from 1950 to 1971, the United Nations considered the question of the representativeness of two politically dissimilar entities in China. The question, which was considered against the background of political and ideological confrontation created by the cold war and its bipolar divisions, generated a certain amount of difficulty because it also involved legal, political and procedural elements which complicated the issue. In the General Assembly, some States advocated the admission of the People's Republic of China as a new Member, while the latter country and its supporters insisted that the question to be settled was that of the representation of China. In October 1971, at its twenty-sixth session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI), in which it decided that China's seat at the United Nations would be taken by the People's Republic of China. This decision excluded the Republic of China in Taiwan from the United Nations.

2. Despite the decision, the Republic of China in Taiwan continued to exist as an independent political entity and was not annexed by the People's Republic of China. On the contrary, the Republic of China in Taiwan maintained a continuous and well-defined presence in the international community, as it still does today. It is therefore clear that the United Nations did not succeed in fully resolving the problem arising from the division of China. The approach taken by the United Nations of adopting a resolution on China's representation in 1971 was clearly over-simplistic and had adverse consequences for the Republic of China in Taiwan to which the United Nations must now find a pragmatic solution in keeping with its Charter and the requirements of international law.

3. The Republic of China in Taiwan is a dynamic and progressive member of the international community and a peace-loving country. At present, it is the fourteenth largest trading nation in the world; its gross national product is the twentieth largest in the world; its per capita income is in excess of US$ 10,000 and its stock of foreign currency reserves, of more than US$ 80 billion, is the second largest in the world. In addition, the Republic of China in Taiwan has become the seventh largest foreign investor in the world. Over the years, the Republic of China in Taiwan has provided technical and financial assistance to many developing countries. The Republic of China in Taiwan cooperates with international financial and development agencies, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), in promoting economic development projects in different parts of the world. In previous years, the Republic of China in Taiwan has adopted a series of political and constitutional reforms and has successfully established a stable political system. The clear progress it has made in the field of political, economic and social development has enabled the Republic of China in Taiwan to instil in its people a strong desire and willingness to serve the international community cooperating and participating as an active member. The international community must therefore be aware of the vital need to recognize the fundamental rights of the 21 million inhabitants of the territory under the jurisdiction of the Republic of China in

Taiwan. These rights have so far been denied or neglected because the Republic of China in Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations.

4. The recognition by the United Nations of the rights of the Republic of China in Taiwan would be consistent with the principles of universality and the equality of States before the law. In addition, it would promote the final reunification of the Chinese nation into a single legal and political entity, in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with the interests of the parties directly involved. The Republic of China in Taiwan has expressed support for a process under which the political relations between the two entities could evolve peacefully over time. With that in view, the Republic of China in Taiwan has adopted the guidelines for national unification, which are consistent with the spirit of the Charter with regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes. Before reunification can be achieved, the Republic of China in Taiwan must secure recognition of its international status, enabling it to participate in the United Nations, so that the interests of the 21 million Chinese in the territory under its jurisdiction can enjoy proper and effective representation. The precedent set by the former East and West Germanys and by North Korea and South Korea, which became Members of the United Nations, shows clearly that parallel membership of the United Nations neither prevents the unification of a nation nor implies international support for its permanent division.

5. The full and formal participation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the activities of international organizations would have practical and beneficial effects for the international community. For example, both the Republic of China in Taiwan and the People's Republic of China are members of the Asian Development Bank and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (APEC), and both have observer status with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to which they are negotiating accession. The time has therefore come to look pragmatically at the exceptional situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan. The multilateral programmes of international humanitarian aid and economic development sponsored by the United Nations system would derive significant benefits with regard to the promotion of international prosperity from the participation of the Republic of China in Taiwan.

6. The United Nations should therefore study the situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan. This study and analysis should focus on the search for an equitable, rational and practical solution which will enable the Republic of China in Taiwan to become a full Member of the United Nations. This solution must be based on the recognition of the rights of the 21 million inhabitants of the Republic of China in Taiwan, which has full jurisdiction over a specific territory, and which is an independent political and legal entity with a democratic system of government and its own institutions, laws, and security and defence arrangements - elements which make it totally distinct from the People's Republic of China.

Annex II

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 on the representation of China at the United Nations and noting that since then, as a result of that resolution, the Republic of China in Taiwan has not been part of the Organization,

Recognizing that the Republic of China in Taiwan is a responsible member of the international community, with a stable political system and a dynamic economy, whose participation in the United Nations would benefit the international community,

Affirming the need to recognize and fully respect the fundamental rights of the 21 million Chinese, who are politically organized as the Republic of China, in the island territory of Taiwan,

Noting the declarations made by the Government of the Republic of China in Taiwan stating that it is willing to accept the obligations laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and to contribute to promoting and maintaining international peace and security,

Convinced of the need to find a peaceful and voluntary solution to the problem posed by the Republic of China in Taiwan within the framework of the United Nations, in accordance with the spirit of the Charter and the principle of universality,

1. Decides to establish an ad hoc committee consisting of ... Member States, to be appointed by the General Assembly, whose mandate will be to analyse comprehensively all aspects of the exceptional situation and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

2. Urges all Member States to assist the committee in fulfilling its mandate.

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Forty-eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY SUB-ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232

Letter dated 16 August 1993 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from our Governments we have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of a supplementary sub-item entitled "Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232" under item 140, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", of the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning this request is annexed to the present letter.

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Belarus to
the United Nations

(Signed) Victor H. BATIOUK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232

The financial situation, in particular with regard to the United Nations peace-keeping operations, continues to be one of the most serious problems confronting the United Nations. Most, if not all, of the newer and larger peace-keeping operations are expected to experience severe cash difficulties before the end of the year. The Governments of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine share with deep concern these conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the United Nations (A/C.5/47/13/Add.1).

The Governments of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine are convinced that the stability in financing the United Nations peace-keeping operations could not be reached without just and adequate apportionment of the appropriate costs between all Member States in conformity with their capacity to pay.

Owing to their previous membership in the United Nations together with the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic were placed in group (b) in 1973, as established in General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973. Since then, significant changes have taken place in these States. The USSR has ceased to exist. All the States that had been former subjects of the USSR, except the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine, were included in group (c). Recent sessions of the open-ended working group of the Fifth Committee called together to examine the placement of Member States in the groups for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses failed to remedy the situation.

However, nowadays the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine are experiencing an extremely complicated period in their history. Implementation of radical political and economic reforms requires considerable efforts on the part of their peoples.

The deep economic crisis has affected both countries. Real indices of their per capita national income reflect a sharp decline in living standards. Current macroeconomic indicators are characterized by decline in public production, reduction of the gross domestic product and intensified inflation processes.

Both countries are compelled to allocate a substantial part of their budgets to overcoming the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident.

In addition, Ukraine is suffering great economic damage as a result of her observance of the Security Council resolutions enforcing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The attention of the international community was drawn to this fact in a letter dated 22 March 1993 from the President of

Ukraine to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as in a letter dated 17 April 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to the President of the Security Council (S/25640). The special economic problems confronting Ukraine as a result of the severance of her economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have been recognized by the Security Council (resolution 843 (1993)).

Taking into account the existing economic situation in both States, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme took a decision qualifying the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine as recipients of international assistance.

However, the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine still remain in group (b) - economically developed Member States - and not in group (c) - economically less developed Member States - whereas their per capita national incomes are lower than those of many countries allocated to group (c).

The situation was substantially aggravated as a result of General Assembly decision 47/456, which endorsed the unfair recommendations of the Committee on Contributions to increase the rates of assessment of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine by more than 50 per cent at a stroke. The increase of the assessment to the United Nations regular budget meant for both States simultaneous proportional growth of their expenditures on the United Nations peace-keeping operations and the regular budgets of various specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

The Governments of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine in their joint memorandum in connection with the consideration at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the question of the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/C.5/47/87) expressed their disapproval and rejection of the erroneous and unfair recalculation of their assessment.

The established rates of assessment for the Republic of Belarus and for Ukraine absolutely do not correspond to their capacity to pay. This fact was fully recognized by the Committee on Contributions at its fifty-third session, although an appropriate solution to the problem was not found.

As a result of these erroneous decisions, the serious indebtedness of the two States to the United Nations will further aggravate the financial crisis of this Organization, in particular the cash-flow situation with regard to the United Nations peace-keeping operations.

Taking into account the considerations mentioned above, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine forwarded a note dated 7 April 1993 to the Secretary-General (A/47/927), which drew attention to the necessity to relocate, at an earliest possible occasion, Ukraine from group (b) to group (c), in the scheme of apportionment of costs of the United Nations peace-keeping operations. The same request was expressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus in the note dated 12 August 1993 to the Secretary-General (A/48/315).

The Governments of the Republic of Belarus an Ukraine consider that the issue referred to above needs to be addressed by the General Assembly as a

sub-item under item 140, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", of the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

APPENDIX

Draft decision

Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232

The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, decides, as an ad hoc arrangement, with respect to the apportionment of the appropriations referred to in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations:

(a) To include Belarus and Ukraine in the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989;

(b) To calculate their contributions to the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations accordingly.

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Forty-eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE

Letter dated 19 August 1993 from the representatives of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We, the Permanent Representatives of the 12 States members of the European Community, have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Assistance in mine clearance".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum concerning the request is annexed to the present letter.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Permanent Representative of Belgium

(Signed) Johan FRIIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Denmark

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of France

(Signed) Detlev GRAF ZU RANTZAU
Permanent Representative of Germany

(Signed) Adamantios Th. VASSILAKIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Greece

(Signed) Francis Mahon HAYES
Permanent Representative of Ireland

(Signed) Francesco Paolo FULCI
Permanent Representative of Italy

(Signed) Anne BASTIAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Luxembourg

(Signed) Count Jan M. V. A. De MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Netherlands

(Signed) Pedro CATARINO
Permanent Representative of Portugal

(Signed) Juan Antonio YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO
Permanent Representative of Spain

(Signed) Thomas L. RICHARDSON, CMG
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. The ever-increasing use of mines and other explosive devices during armed conflicts has taken an intolerable toll of victims, especially among the civilian population. When hostilities cease, minefields and other areas ridden with unexploded devices perpetuate a climate of terror, aggravated by the fact that these areas are not marked, and by the continued danger represented by such devices after they have been laid.

2. In "An Agenda for Peace", the Secretary-General very clearly highlighted the urgency of mine clearance in countries that have been victims of a conflict and the multi-dimensional aspect of the disastrous consequences of the presence of undetonated mines and other explosive devices. The presence of land mines, especially because of their indiscriminate effect, not only represents a danger to the civilian populations and an exorbitant medical and social cost, but is also an obstacle to the repatriation and the resettlement of refugees or displaced persons. It complicates the shipment of humanitarian relief and assistance to the restoration of basic services, which are already difficult in war-torn countries. Furthermore, it places the personnel participating in these operations in constant danger. The presence of unexploded mines and other devices, particularly along communications routes and on farmlands, seriously hampers economic recovery and reconstruction and the restoration of a normal social order.

3. The difficulties encountered in, inter alia, Afghanistan, Cambodia and Mozambique in repatriating refugees and resettling displaced persons and in shipping emergency assistance, prove that a comprehensive programme of assistance in mine clearance which takes into account all the aspects of economic and social reconstruction must be contemplated on a priority basis.

4. While the primary responsibility for mine clearance lies with the State in whose territory the mines are located, the profoundly disorganized situation of countries ravaged by years of conflict and the complex, costly nature of the programmes to be implemented must also be taken into account. The contribution of the international community, whether on a bilateral basis or through regional organizations or United Nations agencies, is therefore a key factor in dealing with the disastrous consequences of the presence of mines.

5. The question concerning the presence of undetonated mines and other explosive devices has been raised within certain bodies of the United Nations system:

(a) On 26 February 1993, the Security Council issued a Presidential statement (S/25344) which included mines among the obstacles to the reconstruction of countries in the post-conflict phase;

(b) The Informal Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on "An Agenda for Peace" also drew attention to matters which should be taken into account on a priority basis for post-conflict peace-building.

6. The Security Council also accorded higher priority to the need to take into account various aspects of mine clearance in organizing peace-keeping operations.

7. International law, in particular the 1981 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, is of paramount importance in preventing the misuse of mines and encouraging the attainment of lasting solutions for the future. It should be pointed out, however, that the tremendous accumulation of unexploded devices in countries emerging from a conflict is an urgent problem that requires a stronger and coordinated international response.

8. The magnitude of the task, its complexity and its cost require a broader approach than that taken in ordinary military operations. Even before the start of the mine-clearance activities themselves will come a whole phase of preparation, personnel training, the exchange of information and know-how, the establishment of evacuation routes and the building of infrastructure. The number of mines and the fact that they are widely scattered also mean that new techniques of defusing them on a large scale must be clearly identified and developed. The rapid start-up of a coherent, effective mine-clearance programme therefore implies very close coordination of the various United Nations bodies responsible for humanitarian assistance and economic and social recovery.

9. Belgium, on behalf of the Community and its member States, takes the view that these are among the concerns that should be considered by the plenary Assembly under the item it proposes for inclusion in the agenda of the Assembly.

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Forty-eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK AND REFORM OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

Letter dated 19 August 1993 from the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We, the Permanent Representatives of the 12 States members of the European Community, have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is annexed to the present letter.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Permanent Representative of Belgium

(Signed) Johan FRIIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Denmark

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of France

(Signed) Detlev GRAF ZU RANTZAU
Permanent Representative of Germany

(Signed) Adamantios Th. VASSILAKIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Greece

(Signed) Francis Mahon HAYES
Permanent Representative of Ireland

(Signed) Francesco Paolo FULCI
Permanent Representative of Italy

(Signed) Anne BASTIAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Luxembourg

(Signed) Count Jan M. V. A. De MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Netherlands

(Signed) Pedro CATARINO
Permanent Representative of Portugal

(Signed) Juan Antonio YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO
Permanent Representative of Spain

(Signed) Thomas L. RICHARDSON, CMG
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. On behalf of the European Community and its member States, Belgium has the honour to propose the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee". This item will be considered by the First Committee.

2. The rationalization of work and the reform of the agenda of the First Committee have been reviewed on several occasions, most recently at the meetings of the First Committee from 8 to 12 March 1993.

3. During these meetings, on behalf of the Community and its member States, Denmark circulated two working papers. The first deals with the rationalization of the work of the First Committee (mentioned in the statement by Denmark, on behalf of the Community and its member States, at the Committee's forty-first meeting). The second deals with the reform of the agenda of the First Committee (A/C.1/47/15 of 9 March 1993).

4. In its resolution 47/54 G, adopted by consensus on 8 April 1993, the General Assembly requested the Chairman of the First Committee to continue his consultations on the further rationalization of the work and the effective functioning of the Committee, taking into account all the views and proposals presented to the Committee, including those related to the thematic clustering of agenda items.

5. In the light of the foregoing and in order to help in attaining these objectives, Belgium, on behalf of the Community and its member States, takes the view that the above considerations relate to the topics to be considered by the General Assembly under the item that it is proposing for inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session.

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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 20 August 1993 from the representatives of Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to address you to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the Latin American Parliament in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (see annex I) and a draft resolution (see annex II) are annexed to this letter.

(Signed) Ronaldo Mota SARDENBERG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil

(Signed) Cristian TATTENBACH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

(Signed) Alcibiades HIDALGO BASULTO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba

(Signed) José AYALA LASSO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ecuador

(Signed) Julio Armando MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Guatemala

(Signed) Gustave ALBIN
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Mexico

(Signed) Erich C. VILCHEZ ASHER
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua

(Signed) Carlos AROSEMENA A.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Panama

(Signed) Ceferino A. VALDEZ PERALTA
Counsellor
Alternate Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Paraguay

(Signed) Luis Felipe GALVEZ
Minister
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Peru

(Signed) Diego ARRIA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Venezuela

ANNEX I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The Latin American Parliament was established on 10 December 1964 in Lima, Peru, by representatives of the parliaments of Latin America. The States which were members of the Parliament agreed to institutionalize it by an appropriate treaty, which was signed, also in the city of Lima, on 16 November 1987 by the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The treaty is currently in force, since it has been ratified by Peru, Cuba, Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, Venezuela, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama and Costa Rica.

2. Furthermore, the Latin American Parliament has been granted observer status in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, by invitation.

3. The Lima Treaty of 1987 describes the Latin American Parliament as "... a permanent and unicameral regional body ..." composed of "... the national congresses or legislative assemblies of the democratically constituted States Parties in Latin America ..." which are to appoint plurally constituted delegations to represent them. In accordance with international law, this Treaty confers on the Parliament a separate legal personality and the privileges and immunities to which such international organizations are entitled under international law. The Latin American Parliament is supported by the contributions paid by the States Parties.

4. The Latin American Parliament has had its headquarters in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, since 1990.

5. The purposes of the Latin American Parliament include the following:

(a) To promote the integrated economic and social development of the Latin American community and to strive for the full economic, political and cultural integration of its peoples within the shortest possible time;

(b) To defend the full enjoyment of freedom, social justice, economic independence and the exercise of representative democracy based on strict observance of the principles of non-intervention and free self-determination of peoples;

(c) To ensure strict respect for basic human rights and to prevent their violation in any Latin American State in such a way as to impair human dignity;

(d) To strive for the elimination of all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism or any other form of discrimination in Latin America;

(e) To oppose imperialist action in Latin America, recommending appropriate standard-setting and programme-oriented legislation designed to enable the Latin American peoples to exercise full and permanent sovereignty over natural resources and to improve their use and conservation;

(f) To strive for international cooperation as a means of structuring and promoting the harmonious development of the Latin American community in the interests of general well-being;

(g) To assist in consolidating international peace and security and the international legal order and to fight for world disarmament, denouncing and opposing the arms race and aggression by those who practice power politics, which are incompatible with the economic, social, cultural and technological development to which the peoples of Latin America are entitled;

(h) To channel and support the demands of the peoples of Latin America in the international arena for the just recognition of their rights in the campaign for the establishment of a new international economic order;

(i) To work in every possible way to strengthen the parliaments of Latin America, to guarantee the constitutional and democratic life of States and to contribute, with the means available and without prejudice to the principle of non-intervention, to the restoration of those that have been dissolved.

6. The States Parties to the Latin American Parliament are of the opinion that the latter, a regional organization ratified by 11 Latin American States which are also Members of the United Nations, would derive considerable benefit if it were granted observer status in the United Nations, since it would thereby establish contact with delegations from countries outside the western hemisphere and would also make a contribution to the Organization's activities in the fields and the geographical area that fall within its competence.

7. We therefore request that the Latin American Parliament be granted observer status in the General Assembly on terms similar to those prescribed for other intergovernmental organizations.

ANNEX II

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Noting the desire of the Latin American Parliament for increased cooperation between the United Nations and the Parliament,

1. Decides to invite the Latin American Parliament to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.